

Delays expected on southbound Route 1 and Route 13

Major detour north of Townsend next week

by **Ryan Kelley**
staff writer

The Odessa-Smyrna section of Route 1, the last piece in the state's 13-year roadway puzzle, is slated for completion in just over a year. Work on the project, though, will cause some immediate changes for drivers on Route 13 and Route 1 in the Odessa-Townsend area.

Southbound Route 13 traffic will be diverted onto Route 1 via Route 299 at Odessa for about three days during the week of April 29, depending on the weather, said DelDOT spokesman Mike Williams.

Then all that southbound traffic on Route 1 will have to merge into one lane south of Odessa for a few hundred yards, where Route 1 and Route 13 currently merge. After the brief bottleneck, both lanes will be open to carry traffic to the current Route 13 southbound.

The exact days of the construction will be posted on DelDOT's website at www.deldot.net and announced on DelDOT radio at 1380 AM.

Northbound traffic will not be affected.

After that three-day period, southbound Route 13 will re-open south of Odessa, but traffic will be detoured onto Harris Road (formerly Frontage Road) all the way to Pine Tree Corner Road near Townsend. Harris Road will have one lane for southbound traffic and one lane for northbound traffic.

This southbound Route 13 detour will last about a year.

Delays are expected, especially during the first few days of the switch. Southbound motorists may want to use other roads such as Routes 896, 71, and 9, Williams said.

Police officers will be stationed in Odessa during the first three days to reroute traffic onto Route 299 and again onto Route 1 south at the interchange. Only people who live on Route 13 south of Odessa or who are visiting businesses in that area will be able to continue south on Route 13.

"Either stay on Route 1 from the canal or get on Route 1 at (Route) 299, if you're committed to taking Route 13. Once you reach the 299 intersection in downtown Odessa, turn right to get on the Route 1 ramp," said Williams.

After the first three days, Route 1 southbound will be re-opened to two lanes south of Odessa, carrying traffic to the current southbound Route 13 near Noxontown Pond Road.

On the southbound Route 13 detour that will continue for about a year, DelDOT officials expect delays at the intersection of Harris and Pine Tree Corner roads near Townsend, where traffic will have to stop at a stop sign and turn left to get back to Route 13.

Drivers coming from Old State Road and Sycamore Farms who want to go south on Route 13 will first have to go north to Harris Road to get to the southbound Route 13 detour.

This last stretch of the Route 1 project is scheduled for completion in mid-2003, a few months ahead of schedule.